



FRG GUIDANCE



OVERVIEW

- **Background**
- **Modification to the Definition of FRG**
- **Clarifications to the Role of the FRG**
- **Garrison Support of FRGs**
- **Funding for FRG Operations**
- **FRGs and Informal Funds**
- **Gifts to FRGs**
- **FRGs and Private Organizations**
- **Implementation at Fort Lewis**



BACKGROUND

- **FRG History**
- **DA Guidance**
 - **DA Pam 608-47, A Guide to Establishing Family Support Groups was withdrawn in 2004.**
- **Army Commanders Guide to FRG Operations**
 - **Distributed by the Army Community and Family Support Center**
 - **Created to help commanders and FRG leaders**



MODIFICATIONS TO THE DEFINITION OF THE FRG



- **Redefining the FRG v. Informal Fund**
 - **Previously FRGs were treated as informal funds as opposed to official command sponsored entities.**
 - **Now FRGs can have Informal Funds, to help support their activities, but the FRG is primarily a Commander's program**



CLARIFICATIONS TO THE ROLE OF THE FRG



- **Command Sponsored**
 - FRGs are official program of DA
 - FRGs Can Use Unit OMA Funds
- **Commander's Responsibilities**
 - General oversight
 - FRG newsletter MOI/SOP
 - Designate informal fund custodian



GARRISON SUPPORT of FRGs



- **Role of Army Community Services**
- **FRG Volunteers May Use Government Resources Such As**
 - **Offices**
 - **Computers**
 - **Copiers**
 - **Email**



FUNDING FOR FRGs

- **Three Sources of Funding**
 - **Appropriated Funds**
 - **Non-Appropriated Funds**
 - **Informal Funds**



FUNDING FOR FRGS

- **Appropriated Funds**
 - **Available for “mission activities”**
 - **Specific Examples**
 - **Volunteer support**
 - **Travel of volunteers**
 - **Training of volunteers**
 - **Incidental expenses of volunteers**



FUNDING FOR FRGS

- **Appropriated Funds**
 - **Prohibited Use**
 - **Purely Social Activities**
 - **An FRG's informal fund should be used to fund purely social events**
 - **Augmentation of other unit informal funds**
 - **Purchase of traditional military gifts**



FUNDING FOR FRGS

- **Nonappropriated Funds (NAF)**
 - **General Principle**
 - **NAFs may not be used for activities for which APFs are authorized**



NONAPPROPRIATED FUNDS (NAF)



- **Supplemental Mission Funds**
 - **Funded through unsolicited donations**
 - **Available to fund quality of life services as adjuncts to FRG mission activities**
 - **Uses are limited to those that benefit all of the resident FRGs**



FRGS AND INFORMAL FUNDS

- **General**
 - **FRGs may establish Informal Funds**
 - **Funds may be used for:**
 - **Parties**
 - **Volunteer recognition**
 - **Send offs/ welcome homes**



FRGS AND INFORMAL FUNDS



- **Fundraising**
 - **Must comply with AR 600-29, Fundraising Within Department of the Army**
 - **FRGs may not solicit donations**
 - **FRGs may not engage in external fundraising on or off post**
 - **Recommended cap of \$5000/year**
 - **Intended to prevent FRG informal fund from incurring tax liabilities.**
 - **No similar limit in Army Regulations**
 - **This amount is consistent with the cap set in FL Reg 215-5.**



FRGS AND INFORMAL FUNDS

- **Prohibited Uses**
 - May not be used to augment unit funds or unit cup and flower funds
 - May not be used for purposes for which APF are authorized
 - May not be used for traditional Army gifts such as farewell gifts



GIFTS TO FRGs

- **General Prohibition**
 - **FRGs may not accept solicited or unsolicited donations.**
- **Large Donations**
 - **Refer to ACS supplemental mission fund, or**
 - **Refer to a charitable organization**



FRGS AND PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS



- **General Principle**
 - **Separate Leadership to avoid appearance of endorsement**



IMPLEMENTATION AT FORT LEWIS



- **Grandfather Clause**
- **Process Action Team**
 - **Military, Civilian Employees, and FRG Volunteers**
 - **Tasked by the CG to collect, analyze, and structure input back to CFSC and implement guidance specific to Fort Lewis**



IMPLEMENTATION AT FORT LEWIS



- **Everyone invited and encouraged to email constructive comments**
- **Intranet <https://ft.lewis.army.mil/> please go to significant events**
- **Internet <http://www.lewis.army.mil/>**
- **We need comments NLT 15 Nov 05**



SUMMARY

- **Redefined the FRG as Command Sponsored Program**
- **Increased Level of Support Authorized**
- **Three Sources of Funding**
- **New Acceptance Policy for “Large Donations”**
- **Mandatory Separation Between FRGs and Private Organizations**
- **Process Action Team and the Road Ahead**



QUESTIONS?